

ingredients, wherein said strain is selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus intermedius* and *Streptococcus constellatus*.

3. (Twice Amended) A composition comprising a daidzein-containing substance
(C2) and at least one strain of microorganism capable of metabolizing daidzein to equol as essential ingredients, wherein said strain is selected from the group consisting of *Streptococcus E-23-17*, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6436, and *Streptococcus A6G-225*, which has been deposited as FERM BP-6437.

(C3) composition is selected from the group consisting of a drink, dairy product, and fermented milk.